

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03776 111759Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 INR-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 /066 W
-----008943 111808Z /42

O R 111735Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2465
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3776

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, MO, CD
SUBJ: MORROCCAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: (A) RABAT 3578, (B) NDJAMENA 2328(NOTAL)

1. IN PRIVATE COMMENTS AT KING HASSAN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON JULY 10, FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI VOLUNTEERED THAT MOROCCANS TAKING CIRCUMSPECT APPROACH TOWARD ASSISTANCE TO CHAD, THEREBY CONFIRMING ANALYSIS REFTEL (A). LARAKI SAW NO POSSIBILITY THAT MOROCCAN TROOPS WOULD BE DISPATCHED TO CHAD. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SITUATION THERE "VERY SERIOUS," WITH LIBYANS HAVING SEIZED SUBSTANTIAL CHADIAN TERRITORY. MOROCCANS WERE DISCUSSING PROBLEM WITH FRENCH AND EGYPTIANS, AND MIGHT SEND SOME MATERIAL.

2. COMMENT: AS TO POSSIBLY CHANNELING U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CHAD THROUGH MOROCCO (PARA 3, REFTEL B), WE SEE SERIOUS DISADVANTAGES. GIVEN MOROCCAN/ALGERIAN TENSIONS AND THE SAHARA ISSUE, OUR POLICY HAS BEEN TO AVOID MOVES WHICH MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED
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GREAT POWER INVOLVEMENT IN AN ESSENTIALLY REGIONAL DISPUTE. CHANNELING OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CHAD THROUGH MOROCCO WOULD BE A STEP TOWARD PUBLICLY IDENTIFYING MOROCCO AS OUR SURROGATE AND UPSETTING CAREFULLY NUTURED, DELICATE EQUILIBRIUM IN THE AREA.

3. FURTHERMORE, OUR ALREADY COMPLEX MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH MOROCCO WOULD BE ENCUMBERED BOTH POLITICALLY AND

ADMINISTRATIVELY BY ADDING EQUIPMENT FOR TRANSFER TO THIRD
PARTIES. FOR ONE THING, OUR INCREASED BILATERAL AND REGIONAL
MILITARY INVOLVEMENT COULD SET A PRECEDENT WHICH MIGHT COME BACK
TO HAUNT US, SHOULD MOROCCO WISH IN FUTURE TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF
OF AFRICAN FRIENDS. IN SUM, IF ANY U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CHAD
CANNOT BE PROVIDED DIRECTLY, WE SEE NO EASY WAY OUT IN ATTEMPTING
TO DO SO INDIRECTLY THROUGH MOROCCO.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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